

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016**

The Regular Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Kaupin in the Council Chambers of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Monday, January 4, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER – The Prayer was given by Councilor Deni.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Councilors Arnone, Cekala, Deni, Edgar, Kaupin, Lee, Stokes and Szewczak. Councilor Hall entered at 7:02 p.m. Councilors Bosco and Sarno were absent. Also present were Acting Town Manager, Lee Erdmann; Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki; Town Attorney, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Courtney Hendricson

FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairman Kaupin made the fire evacuation announcement.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

MOTION #3446 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Deni to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Special Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3446** adopted 9-0-0.

MOTION #3447 by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Szewczak to accept the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3447** adopted 9-0-0.

SPECIAL GUESTS

There were no special guests this evening.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Lucien LeFevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Stated the roads in the Buckhorn area are looking good, and they're down to one remaining street to be done in the spring. He noted after only three months, there's been a road cut in the area of Michael and Sam Streets, and this had to do with a sewer pipe in

the road. He voiced concern this will compromise the road. He stated his hope the Town will fix the road properly now that it has been cut into.

Mr. LeFevre stated the houses from Neelans Road to halfway down Sam Street are older Starr homes, which have older sewer pipes, and he wonders whether there will be issues with that area. He went on to note with Neelans being done from Abbe Road to the park hopefully the Town will save money by putting in new plastic pipes since this area has older homes as well, and this will avoid cutting up the road later on.

Maureen Mullen, 1625 King Street

Thanked everyone on the Council and town commissions for serving the town as volunteers. She feels this is a wonderful service provided to the community. She welcomed the new Town Attorney and noted she has a lot of information regarding the CREC Public Safety Academy near her home should he wish to see it.

Ms. Mullen stated there's a Women's Day of Refreshment on Saturday, January 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a guest speaker and lunch, and this will be held at Calvary Presbyterian Church. She noted more information is available at 860-745-5211.

Lucien LeFevre, 54 Kimberly Drive

Stated he's the Commander of Post 154 in Thompsonville and announced that on February 7th at the 10:45 a.m. mass there will be a Four Chaplain's Mass at St. Patrick's Church. He noted this is the 66th year that Post 154 sponsors the Four Chaplain's Mass. He noted a luncheon will be served after mass in the church basement.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

Councilor Cekala questioned who cut into the new road in the Buckland area. Mr. LeFevre stated it was an independent contractor that repaired the pipe. Chairman Kaupin stated his understanding Public Works is supposed to have a report out early this week concerning this issue.

Councilor Arnone stated the Town offers an insurance policy for sewer lines.

MOTION #3448 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Arnone to suspend the rules to address under Miscellaneous Items 14 E, F and G.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3448** adopted 9-0-0.

Councilor Lee referred to the Town Attorney appointment at the last meeting and the questions resulting from that appointment, and he questioned what kind of instrument is the town using to execute its agreement with the Town Attorney, i.e., is it an employee agreement, or is it a contractor agreement.

Mr. Erdmann stated at the present time there is a simple letter that he sent to the new Town Attorney, and it's in the personnel file that verifies the appointment and the continuation of the assignment as Safety Officer. He noted the letter also informs Mr. Bromson that effective the 1st of January the Town Manager is the Public Safety Director for the Town. He stated his understanding Mr. Deneen had a contract with the Town. He noted it's up to the Town Council if they feel the need for a contract, but it's not a necessary instrument.

Councilor Lee stated if the Town is now going to treat the position as a full-time staff position, he requested a job description be provided. He added he'd like to know if this position is something that the bargaining units have any role in participating in or claiming. Mr. Erdmann stated he doesn't know if there is a current job description. He noted he could work with the Human Resource Director to prepare one. He went on to note this is not a full-time position, and it continues as a 30-hour per week position. He expressed doubt it could be a position that any bargaining unit could claim. He feels it's clearly a management position.

Councilor Szewczak questioned the difference between the Town Attorney and the legal staff that the Town keeps on as full-time employees.

Councilor Arnone stated these are at will positions and they live and breathe by six votes, the same as the Town Manager. He noted they are also sensitive material employees, which protects them from being unionized.

Councilor Edgar stated he sees this as a lateral transfer. He noted he's already under contract with the Town, and he already has insurance and retirement with the Town. As concerns a job description, the Town Charter explains the Town Attorney's duties. He feels what has been done is sufficient.

Attorney Bromson stated the Town Attorney job description is in the Charter. He noted this is his tenth term, and he was here for 18 years. He stated he never had a letter, but rather it was a two-year term, and the salary was set, which is similar to this. He went on to note that because he had been full-time, was Public Safety Director and Safety Officer, the Director of Human Resources at the behest of the Town Manager did send an employment letter, which has been done in the past. He noted the letter states his hours, salary and benefits will remain the same. He pointed out most of the Town Attorney's before him were single practitioners. He noted the only benefit is that he can dedicate every day to his only client, which is the Town of Enfield, and he's committed to do that. He stated he's glad to be back and is honored to serve.

Councilor Szewczak questioned if Attorney Bromson has reestablished his own independent firm, and Attorney Bromson responded no, he has chosen to have his sole client be the Town of Enfield, although he has the prerogative, because he's part-time, to take on private clients. He noted such things should be discussed in Executive Session.

Chairman Kaupin welcomed Attorney Bromson as Town Attorney, and he looks forward to working with him in the coming two years. He noted they've worked well together in the past, and he supported Attorney Bromson as the full-time Public Safety Director, and he did great work as the Safety Officer. He added in the past when he was Town Attorney, the Council received very sound advice.

Chairman Kaupin thanked Courtney Hendricson for her years of service to the Town of Enfield. He noted she moved Enfield's economic development efforts forward, and she is a well respected individual in her profession.

Councilor Edgar stated he would like the Town Attorney to review all litigation and pending grievances and report back to the Town Council as to where everything stands. Attorney Bromson stated they're putting together that list and working through all the pending litigation with the Town Attorney's Office, and he'll have a full report at the next Special Meeting.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Erdmann stated they're moving forward with the completed applications for LOTCIP. He noted the Post Office Road and Thompsonville bikeway applications are completed and will be submitted on time.

He stated View Permit is up and running, including the ability of contractors to apply for permits and pay for them online. He noted Enfield is the 18th town in Connecticut to use this system, and the staff is very happy with it so far.

He noted the Council has a binder containing materials for the upcoming goal setting session.

Mr. Erdmann stated the Council was sent an email today indicating additional work has been done at the Adult Day Center. He noted two additional downspouts and underground drains were added, and it's hoped that resolves the problem.

He stated Courtney Hendricson is taking a position as Vice President for Municipal Services of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center. He wished Ms. Hendricson well and noted she will be very successful in this new role.

Ms. Hendricson stated it's been a wonderful two and a half years, and she very much enjoyed the work, especially with some of the things done in Thompsonville, i.e., the Farmers Market, the garden and other events. She noted she enjoyed working with all the boards and commissions and the phenomenal Enfield staff. She wished Enfield the best.

Councilor Hall stated calls came in from Mark Twain about the great job Building & Grounds did over there.

She wished Ms. Hendricson well in her new endeavor.

Councilor Hall welcomed Attorney Bromson.

Councilor Stokes thanked Ms. Hendricson for her service.

He noted he did communicate with Attorney Bromson earlier this week. He wanted Attorney Bromson to know that although he wasn't happy with the process, he has his support and confidence.

Councilor Stokes stated there will be a school joint security meeting on Wednesday morning. He requested school administration be contacted to make sure they will be attending. He stated his hope Attorney Bromson can help with a smooth transition. Attorney Bromson indicated he would do that and be in attendance at that meeting.

Councilor Arnone voiced his appreciation for the resolution of problems at Mark Twain.

Councilor Arnone wished Ms. Hendricson well in her new position, and he went on to say it will be nice to work with Attorney Bromson.

Councilor Deni also expressed his appreciation for the work done at Mark Twain. He went on to wish Ms. Hendricson well in her new position. He also welcomed Attorney Bromson.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT & COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Bromson stated as he indicated to Councilor Edgar, he will have a report for the next Special Meeting.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Enfield High School Renovation Building Committee

Chairman Kaupin stated his understanding there's an extra expense for painting the walls in the "A" wing at Enfield High School due to magic marker bleeding through the paint. Councilor Szewczak stated it's an issue of the material they need to use. She stated there will be more information forthcoming.

Councilor Hall stated a General Governance meeting has been scheduled for January 11th. She noted part of this will include an update by the Town Attorney regarding all the grievances as well as an update of lawsuits. She noted that information will be brought back to the caucuses prior to the next Council meeting.

Councilor Lee stated the joint Board/Council IT Strategy group is meeting this month and there will be an update on the outcome of that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS (TOWN COUNCIL)

MOTION #3449 by Councilor Edgar, seconded by Councilor Arnone to remove Item #22 from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3449** adopted 9-0-0.

NOMINATION #3450 by Councilor Edgar to appoint Alan Drinan (U) to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a term which expires 12/31/2019.

MOTION #3451 by Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Arnone to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3451** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Alan Drinan appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission by a 9-0-0 vote.

MOTION #3452 by Councilor Edgar, seconded by Councilor Cekala to remove Item #25 from the table.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3452** adopted 9-0-0.

NOMINATION #3453 by Councilor Edgar to appoint Lynn Scull (D) to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term which expires 12/31/2019.

MOTION #3454 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Szewczak to close nominations.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3454** adopted 9-0-0.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared Lynn Scull appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals by a 9-0-0 vote.

All other appointments remained tabled.

Items C, D, E, F, G, H and I remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no New Business items on this evening's agenda.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

All appointments will appear on the next regular meeting agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS

RESOLUTION #3455 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Arnone.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Chapter VI, Section 8(f) of the Town Charter, the following transfer is hereby made:

TO:	Capital Non-Recurring School Playgrounds-Equipment	31008802-573000	\$106,436.99
FROM:	Treasury Department Old Town Hall Renov.-Construction	31008111-545000	\$52,741.35
	Various Brooks-Construction	31008308-545000	\$48,235.63
	Drainage Ditch EMIP-Maintenance	31008324-545000	\$ 5,460.01

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above-stated funds are available as of December 30, 2015.

/s/ John A. Wilcox, Acting Director of Finance

Councilor Edgar stated his understanding this is for the Eli Whitney School. He questioned when Hazardville Memorial and Enfield Street Schools will be done. Chairman Kaupin stated Enfield Street School is being worked on, and the funds for Enfield Street School are those allocated in this fiscal year. He noted this came out of a recommendation from the Leisure Subcommittee because Eli Whitney's playscape was closed down due to the matting. He stated the Subcommittee asked Town staff to identify if there were funds available in CIP so that the work at Eli Whitney could be done as soon as spring arrives. He referred to the five-year playscape replacement program and noted the monies allocated in the next fiscal year would be utilized for Hazardville Memorial, which would be in the coming budget so the work could start after July 1, 2016.

Councilor Arnone stated he does endorse this.

Councilor Lee stated playgrounds are basically extensions of the facilities that the Town maintains and supports financially. He questioned if playgrounds could be included in the referendum program so all schools are treated equally. Councilor Arnone agreed.

Councilor Szewczak stated she'd rather see playgrounds in the budget as individual projects so that they don't have to take them to referendum because they would have to be bonded, and she's unsure playground equipment lasts through the bonding lifetime.

Councilor Hall stated they used to budget playgrounds in CIP, but in the past they had a much healthier CIP. She agrees with Councilor Szewczak.

Chairman Kaupin stated they should get an official notification out to Enfield Public Schools and Eli Whitney and Eli Whitney PTO so they know about this action and when they can anticipate construction.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #3455** adopted 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION #3456 by Councilor Edgar, seconded by Councilor Deni.

WHEREAS, the North Central Connecticut Probate Court, pursuant to the Last Will and Testament of Mary Wojnar, issued a Certificate of Devise to the Town of Enfield for a .33 acre parcel of land on the north side of Oliver Road (the property); and

WHEREAS, the Certificate of Devise was recorded in the Enfield Land Records on December 22, 2015 in Volume 2633, Page 1125; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield does not wish to retain title to the property; and

WHEREAS, an abutting property owner has expressed an interest in acquiring title to the property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Connecticut General Statute 8-24, the conveyance of real property must be referred to the Enfield Planning and Zoning Commission for a report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Enfield Town Council does hereby refer the proposed conveyance of the above-described property to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute 8-24.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #3456** adopted 9-0-0.

RESOLUTION #3457 by Councilor Lee, seconded by Councilor Arnone.

WHEREAS, the original Resolution #3410 stated the Town of Enfield is looking to acquire drainage easements for drainage from 32 Crescent Lake Drive, 42 Lake Drive, and 61 Lake Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Enfield is looking to acquire drainage easements for drainage from 30 Crescent Beach Drive (corrected), 42 Lake Drive and 61 Lake Drive; and

WHEREAS, there is public need for the Town to retain drainage easements on these Properties; and

WHEREAS, the Council must refer the proposed corrected transaction to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report in conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute 8-24.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed transfer of the Easements is referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report in the conformance with the requirements of Connecticut General Statute 8-24.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #3457** adopted 9-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were no comments from the public.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Cekala welcomed Attorney Bromson and wished Ms. Hendricson well in her new position.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #3458 by Councilor Szewczak, seconded by Councilor Stokes to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #3458** adopted 9-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:52 p.m.